GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1014
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
DISEASES IN ARECANUT TREES
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether arecanut trees have been affected with disease in the State of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Research institute has been entrusted to know the cause of the disease; and

(d) if so, the results thereof and the action taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. As per information received from State of Karnataka, arecanut trees have been affected by phytoplasma, bacterial and fungal diseases namely yellow leaf disease, Koleroga or Mahali, bud rot and crown rot, inflorescence dieback, leaf spot, button shedding and foot rot. These diseases occur whenever conducive climatic conditions are prevalent in the arecanut growing areas.

(c) & (d): The Regional Station Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Vittal is exclusively working on these diseases. The Institute has recommeded following control measures against the stated diseases.:

(i) Koleroga or Mahali: Spray of 1 % Bordeaux mixture 2 times at 45 days interval.
(ii) Bud rot and Crown rot: Spray of 1 % Bordeaux mixture and application of Bordeaux paste to the crown. Drenching of base of palms with 0.3 % tridemorph or 0.3 % phosphoric acid (3 ml/l) against crown rot.
(iii) Inflorescence dieback and Button shedding: Spray of Indofil M-45 @ 3 gm /l or Dithane Z- 78 @ 4g/l.
(iv) Leaf spot: Spray of 0.3 % Dithane M-45 (3 g/l of water).
(v) Foot rot: Basin of palms be given 0.3 % Calixin (3ml/l) @ 4 liter /palm plus root feeding of 1.5 % Culixin (15 ml/l) @ 125 ml/palm at quarterly intervals. Application of 2 kg neem cake/palm/year and applcation of green leaf & Farm Yard Manure @ 15-20 Kg/palm/ year, is also recommended.
(vi) Yellow Leaf Disease: Adoption of integrated crop management technology which include, interalia, balanced nutrient management, green manuring, optimum irrigation and proper drainage, removal of affected palms, etc., is recommended.